

News for Fall 2018

The JS faculty has been working hard to keep Jewish Studies constantly developing.

A lot went on over the past year that will bear fruit starting this Fall! Last Fall we secured the financial support of the [Israel Institute of Washington DC](#), an advocacy group for balanced discussions about Israel. And that support has allowed us to secure a tenure-track faculty position (our first!!) in the politics and history of Israel. After much searching, we lit on just the right candidate, an Israeli from Mt Carmel (the Druze community there) with vast experience in teaching American students (VAP stints at NYU and Berkeley): Dr Rami Zeedan specializes in Israel's national and local politics -- see the box at right.

AND our "Jews in the Midwest" conference last November was such a success (over 100 people in attendance, 5 exciting presentations) that we're planning a second event this October (see box): "Jews in the Midwest 2: Writing Jewish: Midrash, Miracle, and Myth." This will be a more intimate affair: a morning writer's workshop with Kansas Poet Laureate Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (you must sign up to reserve a seat at the table), and an afternoon symposium with 3 speakers (open to the public): Mirriam-Goldberg, our own Renee Perelmutter, and guest author Rena Rosner. We are also grateful to the Lawrence Jewish Community Center which will provide the venue for this warm and welcoming event and we are grateful to the Jewish Legacy Foundation for their financial support.

AND Jewish Studies has expanded with more office space (gotta give our tenure-track faculty his own office!) with even some student lounge space: come visit our suite on 4th floor Wescoe (rooms 4024, 4027, 4028, 4029).

Obviously a new faculty member means other developments are in the works: a new minor in Israel Studies, a new website for [Israel Studies](#), and new opportunities for study abroad. And to bolster these new academic directions we need to develop new certificates in Jewish Studies and Israel Studies, all leading to some kind of Master's program in the near future.

But I'm definitely getting ahead of myself (as usual), for if plans work out, I shall be retiring at the end of June 2019, after 46 years of continuous teaching.

We will be needing a new Director of JS in 2019-2020. Got any ideas ?!

We're getting better all the time!

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